

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2009

The Rev. John Talk opened the meeting with prayer.

Megan Norris reported than a letter from the Stewardship Committee was mailed out last week. The Finance Committee will be sending a letter next week, and there will be another letter mailed with the pledge cards the following week. Pledges should be turned in by November 15th. Those who return their cards by that date will have their names printed in the following edition of the Chronicles. Parishioners who return their cards after November 15th will have their names in future Chronicles editions.

It is expected to be a difficult year for pledges. Megan urged Vestry members to set an example by tithing or, at least, to move toward tithing by increasing our pledges year by year. Everyone is facing economic challenges, but Christ Church is relatively well off compared to other churches.

Tom Cragg presented the September Financial report which shows that revenues are down compared to 2008 as well as to 2009 budget projections. Expenses are down compared to 2008, but on track with 2009 budget projections. December is usually a good month for pledges, so Tom is hopeful that revenues will move up.

Tom drafted a letter to the Diocese requesting a lower Diocesan tithe this year, in accordance with the Vestry's discussion at the September meeting. The letter is in the review process. We are following the Diocesan standard procedure to request a lower tithe. Tom will present the first

draft of the 2010 budget at next month's Vestry meeting.

Howard Matthew reported that seven committees have submitted Statements of Mission to date. We are waiting for submissions from the Altar Guild, Christian Education, Greeters, Stewardship, and Ushers. The Ad Hoc Chapel Planning Committee submitted their update report. We are still trying to recruit people to head the Membership Committee and the Promotions Committee.

John Talk reported that bids were solicited for the work needed on the courtyard from several sources. A bid should be awarded soon. Fencing has been priced. New fencing could cost anywhere from \$1700 on the low side, to \$17,000 or more. A happy medium will be found. Status on the retaining wall will be reported at the next meeting.

John Talk mentioned that his contract requires a job description to be written by the end of the year. John will work with the Senior Warden to draft the description. Anyone else is invited to provide input to the document.

The carpet in Ledyard Hall was removed for the Hafli. There was a discussion about re-installing it versus buying new carpeting. The current carpeting is mismatched roll ends. Because of the budget situation, we will attempt to get carpeting donated after the Auto Show. An item will be inserted in the Bulletin asking parishioners if anyone has contacts at the Auto Show who might help us request the donation.

John distributed copies of Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation by Carol Howard Merritt to Vestry

members. John ordered the book before we began our revisioning process. Merrit is a GenX writer and John feels she will provide useful insight for our revisioning process.

Jon Miller requested our support of the International Day of Climate Action which is this Saturday, October 24th. The request came too late for us to plan an event, but a suggestion was made that we ask Sandra to put something on our sign. We will also consider sponsoring an event next year.

John Talk mentioned that the World Social Forum, which is a group that meets annually to consider how to improve society, will be meeting in Detroit in June. There will be over 22,000 people meeting at Cobo Hall. We agreed to volunteer our space for an event or for lunch or a dinner. John is working on this project with other downtown pastors.

John has offered the use of our space to other downtown Episcopal Churches, by notifying the Diocese. This would include either office space or the Church, if it would be helpful to keep these Churches going.

There was general discussion that when the Promotions Committee is fully formed they need to keep track of downtown events and make sure that we are participating in some way. Events would include the recent dog walk, the marathon, or the fireworks, to name a few.

Because of Thanksgiving, the next Vestry meeting will be November 19th. Tom Cragg will be responsible for the meal.

The Rev. John Talk gave the dismissal.